Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program

Urban Riparian and Stream Restoration Training Program and Demonstration Project

Location	*Statewide*
River Basin	*Statewide*
Contractor	*Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)*
Project Period	*September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2020*
Project Total	*$520,635 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)*

Background

The 2014 Texas Integrated Report, which evaluates the state of waterbodies meeting water quality standards, includes 589 impairments with elevated bacteria accounting for over 43%, followed by low dissolved oxygen at 16%. Degraded habitat is also impacting aquatic and wildlife communities. The best solution to restore a healthy riparian area is identifying and correcting the cause of the erosion or degradation and thus minimizing the effects, either by changing practices, revegetating, and/or stabilizing the channel.

Project Description

Under this project TWRI will coordinate the Urban Riparian and Stream Restoration training program. Trainings will be held in and around large urban centers such as Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio, and target surrounding watersheds with accepted watershed protection plans. The goal of the training program is for participants to better understand stream functions, the impact of urban development on streams, recognize healthy and degraded stream systems, how to assess and classify a stream, and natural versus traditional restoration.

This project also includes a demonstration site which will implement stream bank revegetation along moderate to highly erodible sections of the creek. The demonstration site will be used to evaluate sediment loading and load reductions in restored areas. An erosion and sediment control plan will be implemented including the use of erosion control blankets, compost filter socks, bioengineering techniques, and other BMPs as required at the site.

Water quality monitoring for baseline data will be established prior to restoration. By using automatic water samplers, an extensive and continuous set of water quality data will be collected to document changes in the physical and chemical characteristics of the stream for the period prior to stream bank revegetation, during revegetation activities, and up to two years after revegetation.

Current Status

Contract executed September 1, 2017.

Public Participation

The public will be offered the Urban Riparian and Stream Restoration Training programs throughout the state.

For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 09/2017 – Contract executed. Post-award conference held.